

Environmental Water Program

Update Number 4

5/19/04

The following is the fourth installment of the EWP Update. These updates are intended to be brief overviews of significant actions and notification of upcoming meetings and significant dates. For background information on the EWP, please visit our web site at <http://www.calfedewp.org/>. If you would like more detailed information or have questions, please contact Campbell Ingram at (916) 414-6727 or campbell_ingram@fws.gov.

Programmatic Update

A half-day focus session between the ERP Implementing Agency Managers and the Core Team has been scheduled for June 18th from 9:00 am. to 12:00 pm., location to be determined. The purpose of the meeting is to allow a thorough review of past efforts, progress and future direction of the program. The first agenda item will focus on coordination of the EWP with the EWA, and the CVPIA (b)(2) and (b)(3) programs.

An update on the EWP will be given to the Environmental Water Account Team (EWAT) on May 26th at their regularly scheduled meeting from 10:00 am. to 12:00 pm. at 2800 Cottage Way, Rm C1000.

The next Core Team meeting will be June 21, 2004 at 1:30 – location to be determined.

Priority Stream Update

Clear Creek

- A draft Concept Proposal was distributed to the Local Team for their review on May 5. A Local Team meeting was held on May 12 to discuss the document and receive comments. Comments are due back from the Local Team May 26. The draft document will be revised to incorporate Local Team comments and will be ready for further review on June 16. We will then initiate an independent peer review and related programs review in preparation for review by the ERP Selection Panel. According to the EWP process, if this proposal is approved for advancement, the team will draft a full proposal that responds to the recommendations made by the reviewers and expands upon material provided in the conceptual proposal, including: detailed descriptions of the work to be completed, statements of who will be responsible for completing each element of work, projected costs for each element of work, a science and adaptive management plan, a project management plan, and a water acquisition plan.
- The next Local Team Meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2004 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Western Shasta RCD.

Mill Creek

- No change since last update.

Deer Creek

- The EWP is attempting to combine the expansion of an existing Groundwater Substitution Program (GWSP), an agricultural Water Use Efficiency (WUE) effort, a lease program (including an adaptive management and monitoring effort) to fulfill the water needs of local agricultural and domestic water users, while achieving fisheries flow objectives at no additional water cost to users. There are currently three anticipated funding sources for the program: SWP 4-Pumps Program, the CBDA Water Use Efficiency Proposal Solicitation Process (WUE PSP) (Prop. 50) and the EWP.
- The SVRIC and DCID have agreed to pursue a grant through the WUE PSP, expected to be released in the near future.
- The next Local Team meeting will be scheduled for late June, date to be determined.

Butte Creek

- At the April 14th Local Team meeting, participants agreed that recent expenditures to improve fish passage in the lower reach coupled with the 40 cfs base flow agreement have largely addressed the need for increased flow within that reach. The one remaining potential biological objective that could be met through increased flow is improved temperature conditions. It had been previously agreed that temperature modeling, to be conducted by PG&E as part of their FERC re-licensing process, is necessary for better understanding of temperature interactions within the upper reach prior to flow experimentation.
- The next Local Team Meeting will be scheduled within 3 to 6 months (between July and October) to discuss: 1) Risk and uncertainty for fish associated with drought conditions, 2) Status of PG&E temperature/flow model, and 3) Formation of a Sutter Bypass/Butte Slough Local Team. It is expected that this may be the last Local Team meeting. If so, the program will document our findings and list those conditions that would need to be met in order to trigger further EWP effort in the watershed.

Tuolumne River

- A concept paper was delivered to the CBDA Program Managers on April 28th, for their review.
- The concept paper is expected to be discussed at a subgroup of the TRTAC on May 24 and at the full TRTAC meeting on June 10th.

Battle Creek

- To date, the EWP team has provided the Adaptive Management Technical Team (AMTT) with the following products; general comments for the revision of the AMP, multiple conceptual models, a sediment monitoring special study, a juvenile habitat usage special study, an updated linkages section and an operating procedures section all for inclusion in the revised AMP.
- No further assistance has been requested.